

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Giselle Fisher, and I am a student from New Haven.

I stand in support of HB 6616: AN ACT CONCERNING EXPANSION OF HUSKY HEALTH BENEFITS TO THOSE INELIGIBLE DUE TO IMMIGRATION STATUS. Expanding HUSKY access to all children and adults to age 26 regardless of immigration status is an important step in ensuring our immigrant community has access to the healthcare that we all deserve. Everyone deserves the right to access healthcare; thus, I support any future legislation that would expand access to all members of our community.

I am a Spanish interpreter for HAVEN Free Clinic in New Haven, Connecticut. We are a clinic that serves an uninsured population, most of whom are migrants. I strongly support this legislation because it is important to the patients we serve. Access to healthcare would allow our patients to seek health care when necessary as well as to seek follow up care. Current legislation does not allow our patients to seek healthcare when they need it, and many times, results in their conditions worsening.

This legislation would greatly support our patients because they would be able to seek care when ill, to receive preventative care rather than curative care, and to ensure their family members and children are cared for. Many patients have expressed challenges with purchasing their own medications and feeding their family, and access to Medicaid would provide them with the care needed to support their family.

The health of our entire communities depends on the health of all of our community members. I urge Connecticut legislation to follow precedent in other states that have already taken steps to expand Medicaid to their undocumented communities. I support HB 6616, and I urge the committee to support and pass this legislation.

Thank you for your time,

Giselle Fisher